

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4107
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
Misbehaviour by Nepal Airlines
Adityanath Shri Yogi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether Nepal airlines and Nepal administration misbehaved with the Indian citizens returning from Mansarovar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the safety and protection of Mansarovar yatris?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) Yes. Such an incident was brought to the notice of the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu. The matter was taken up strongly by our Ambassador in Nepal with the then Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal stressing the need for Nepalese authorities to investigate the matter and take appropriate punitive action against those found guilty so as to deter recurrence of such incidents.

(c) The Nepal route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is a route organized by private tour operators. Yatris on this route have reported facing several difficulties including being stranded at times due to inclement weather, limited infrastructural facilities and capacity constraints. There have also been reports of yatris facing serious health issues, which sometimes have resulted in fatalities. In 2016, as per the information available, 7 yatris travelling through Nepal route have passed away. Embassy of India, Kathmandu takes the necessary measures to evacuate stranded pilgrims and alleviate their difficulties in coordination and consultation with the concerned Nepalese authorities. Wherever necessary, appropriate advisories are issued for avoiding using the Nepal route particularly when inclement weather is forecast.